Numb. 219

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

——— *Procaces*
Qui captat Riſus Hominum, Famamq; Dicacis
Affectat, niger eſt, hunc, tu Romane, caveto.

From *Thurſday Auguſt* 31. to *Saturday September* 2. 1710.

From my own Apartment, September 1.

NEVER were Men ſo perplexed as a ſelect Company of us were this Evening with a Couple of profeſſed Wits, who, thro' our ill Fortune, and their own Confidence, had thought fit to pin themſelves upon a Gentleman who had owned to them that he was going to meet ſuch and ſuch Perſons, and named us one by one. Theſe pert Puppies immediately reſolved to come with him, and from the Beginning to the End of the Night entertained each other with Impertinencies to which we were perfect Strangers. I am come Home very much tired; for the Affliction was ſo irkſome to me, that it ſurpaſſes all other I ever knew, inſomuch that I cannot reflect upon this Sorrow with Pleaſure, tho' it is paſt.

An eaſie Manner of Converſation is the moſt deſirable Quality a Man can have; and for that Reaſon Coxcombs will take upon them to be familiar with People whom they never ſaw before. What adds to the Vexation of it is, that they will act upon the Foot of knowing you by Fame, and rally with you, as they call it, by repeating what your Enemies ſay of you; and court you, as they think, by uttering to your Face at a wrong Time all the kind Things your Friends ſpeak of you in your Abſence.

Theſe People are the more dreadful, the more they have of what is uſually called Wit: For a lively Imagination, when it is not governed by a good Underſtanding, makes ſuch miſerable Havock both in Converſation and Buſineſs, that it lays you defenceleſs, and fearful to throw the leaſt Word in its Way, that may give it new Matter for its further Errors.

Tom Mercett has as quick a Fancy as any one living; but there is no reaſonable Man can bear him Half an Hour. His Purpoſe is to entertain, and it is of no Conſequence to him what is ſaid, ſo it be what is called well ſaid, as if a Man muſt bear a Wound with Patience, becauſe he that puſhed at you came up with a good Air and Mien. That Part of Life which we ſpend in Company is the moſt pleaſing of all our Moments; and therefore I think our Behaviour in it ſhould have its Laws, as well as the Part of our Being, which is generally eſteemed the more important. From hence it is, that from long Experience I have made it a Maxim, that however we may pretend to take Satisfaction in ſprightly Mirth and high Jollity, there is no great Pleaſure in any Company where the Baſis of the Society is not mutual Good-Will. When this is in the Room, every trifling Circumſtance, the moſt minute Accident, the Abſurdity of a Servant, the Repetition of an old Story, the Look of a Man when he is telling it, the moſt indifferent and the moſt ordinary Occurrences, are Matters which produce Mirth and good Humour. I went to ſpend an Hour after this Manner with ſome Friends who enjoy it in Perfection when ever they meet, when thoſe Deſtroyers above-mentioned came in upon us. There is not a Man among them has any Notion of Diſtinction of Superiority to one another, either in their Fortunes or their Talents, when they are in Company; or if any Reflexion to the contrary occurs in their Thoughts, it only ſtrikes a Delight upon their Minds, that ſo much Wiſdom and Power is in Poſſeſſion of one whom they love and eſteem.

In theſe my Lucubrations I have frequently dwelt upon this one Topick. It would make ſhort Work for us Reformers; for it is only Want of making this a Poſition that renders ſome Characters bad which would otherwiſe be good. *Tom Mercett* means no Man ill, but does ill to every Body. His Ambition is to be witty; and to carry on that Deſign, he breaks through all Things that other People hold Sacred. If he thought Wit was no Way to be uſed but to the Advantage of Society, that Sprightlineſs would have a new Turn, and we ſhould expect what he is going to ſay with Satisfaction inſtead of Fear. It is no Excuſe for being miſchevious, that a Man is miſchevious without Malice; nor will it be thought an Attonement that the Ill was done not to injure the Party concerned, but to divert the Indifferent.

It is, methinks, a very great Error that we ſhould not profeſs Honeſty in Converſation as much as in Commerce. If we conſider that there is no greater Misfortune than to be ill received, where we love the turning a Man to Ridicule among his Friends, we rob him of greater Enjoyments than he could have purchaſed by his Wealth; yet he that laughs at him would, perhaps, be the laſt Man who would hurt him in this Caſe of leſs Conſequence. It has been ſaid, the Hiſtory of *Don Quixote* utterly deſtroyed the Spirit of Gallantry in the *Spaniſh* Nation; and I believe we may ſay much more truly, that the Humour of Ridicule has done as much Injury to the true Reliſh of Company in *England*.

Such Satisfactions as ariſe from the ſecret Compariſon of our ſelves to others, with Relation to their

their inferior Fortunes or Merit, are mean and unworthy. The true and high State of Converſation is, when Men communicate their Thoughts to each other upon ſuch Subjects, and in ſuch a Manner, as would be pleaſant if there were no ſuch Thing as Folly in the World; for it is but a low Condition of Wit in one Man, which depends upon Folly in another.

P. S. I was here interrupted by the Receipt of my Letters, among which is one from a Lady, who is not a little offended at my Tranſlation of the Diſcourſe between *Adam* and *Eve*. She pretends to tell me my own, as ſhe calls it, and quotes ſeveral Paſſages in my Works which tend to the utter Diſunion of Man and Wife. Her Epiſtle will beſt expreſs her. I have made an Extract of it, and ſhall inſert the moſt Material Paſſages.

'I ſuppoſe you know we Women are not too apt 'to forgive; for which Reaſon, before you concern 'your ſelf any further with our Sex, I would adviſe 'you to anſwer what is ſaid againſt you by thoſe 'of your own. I encloſe to you Buſineſs enough, 'till you are ready for your Promiſe of being wit-'ty. You muſt not expect to ſay what you pleaſe, 'without admitting others to take the ſame Liberty. 'Marry come up, You a Cenſor! --- Pray, read 'over all theſe Pamphlets, and theſe Notes upon 'your Lucubrations; by that Time you ſhall hear 'further. It is, I ſuppoſe, from ſuch as you that 'People learn to be ſenſorious, for which I and all 'our Sex have an utter Averſion, when once Peo-'ple come to take the Liberty to wound Reputa-'tions - - - - -

This is the main Body of the Letter; but ſhe bids me turn over, and there I find - - - - -

Mr. *Bickerſtaff*,

'If you will draw Mrs. *Siſly Trippit* according 'to the encloſed Deſcription, I will forgive you 'all.

To Iſaac Bickerſtaff *Eſq*;

The humble Petition of Joſhua Fairlove *of* Stepney.

SHEWETH,

'THAT your Petitioner is a general Lover, who for ſome Months laſt paſt has made it 'his whole Buſineſs to frequent the By-paths and 'Roads near his Dwelling, for no other Purpoſe 'but to hand ſuch of the Fair Sex as are obliged 'to paſs through them.

'That he has been at great Expence for clean 'Gloves to offer his Hand with.

'That towards the Evening he approaches near 'London, and employs himſelf as a Convoy towards 'Home.

'Your Petitioner therefore moſt humbly prays,

'That for ſuch his humble Services he may 'be allowed the Title of an *Eſquire*.

Mr. *Morphew* has Orders to carry the proper Inſtruments, and the Petitioner is to be hereafter writ to upon gilt Paper by the Title of *Joſhua Fairlove* Eſq;

Adverſiſements.

*** There is now to be delivered to Subſcribers, by Charles Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beaufort-Buildings in the Strand, and J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. The Second Volume of the LUCUBRATIONS of Iſaac Bickerſtaff Eſq; in Octavo, on a Fine Royal and Medium Papers.

MOrning-Gowns for Men and Women, of Silk, Stuffs, and Callicoe's (being the Goods of Perſons that failed) which were to be diſpoſed of at the Olive-Tree and Still, are now to be ſold at the Golden Sugar-Loaf up one Pair of Stairs, over-againſt the Horſe at Charing-Croſs; with a freſh Parcel at very low Rates, the Price being ſet on each Gown.

SIR William Read, Her Majeſty's Oculiſt, is now at his Houſe in Durham-yard in the Strand, London, having ſeveral Perſons of Quality and others to attend in Diſtempers relating to the Eyes, and has lately performed ſeveral remarkable Cures upon many that were blind from their Birth of Cataracts, and Multitudes whoſe Sight were much deſpaired of; ſome by violent ſharp Humours from the Small-Pox, and ſuch like Accidents, that often produce great Inflammations, Albugoes, Unguloes, or Fiſtula Lachrymalis, in which Art (after 35 Years Practice and great Experience both at home and abroad) he muſt be allowed to have made the greateſt Improvement. Sir William takes off all Sorts of Wens, and cures Wry-Necks and Hair-Lips without Blemiſh, tho' never ſo deformed; and allows no body to practiſe in his Name but his Lady, whom he has inſtructed. Note, Sir William will be at St. Edmundsbury all the enſuing Fair.

BOhee Tea, 16 s. a Pound, made of the beſt Green Tea, and tinctured with the ſame Materials that Foreign Bohee is tinctured with. Sold by R. Fary only, at the Bell in Grace-Church-ſtreet, Druggiſt. Chocolate made of the beſt Nuts ground very fine, 2 s. 6 d. a Pound. Chocolate with Sugar, 20 d. To a Quantity further Encouragement.

MR. Cox's Sale of the Houſe, Numb. 23. in Glocester-ſtreet, and Plate, &c. which was to be drawn the 31ſt of Auguſt, will certainly begin to be drawn on Monday next the 4th Inſtant, at Six in the Morning in the Great Room in York-Buildings; at which Time any Gentlemen or Ladies, Adventurers, may have the Satisfaction of ſeeing all the Benefits fairly put into the Wheel, and have Liberty every Night, during the Time of Drawing, to ſeal up the Wheel; which Seals will not be broke the next Morning without at leaſt Twenty Adventurers preſent.

BEing removed from Mr. Cuthbert's, Scrivener, the Sale of Plate and other valuable Goods, viz. a fine Silver Bohee Tea-kettle, Stand and Lamp, a Furbelow'd Scarf, a Silver Tankard, Coffee-pot, Mugs and Cups, with ſeveral Silver Snuff-boxes, Salts, Gold Rings, and other Things too long to be mentioned, to be diſpoſed of by way of Lots, at 2 s. 6 d. each Ticket. The Goods to be ſeen, and Tickets to be had, at the Golden Sugar-Loaf againſt the Horſe at Charing-Croſs, at Young Man's Coffee-houſe, at Will's Coffee-houſe, Scotland-yard, Mr. Cuney's, a Silverſmith, at the Three Crowns in Paunton-ſtreet, at Mr. Lillie's, the Corner of Beaufort-Buildings in the Strand, at Mr. Archer's, Bookſeller, next to the Crown and Cuſhion Tavern in Ruſſel-ſtreet, Covent-Garden, at Salter's Coffee-houſe at Chelſea, at Nixon's Coffee-houſe in Fetter-lane, and at Mr. Batſon's Coffee-houſe by the Exchange.

A Sale of Goods at Mr. Guthridge's, a Toy-ſhop, over-againſt Nortolk-ſtreet in the Strand, all Prizes and no Blanks, at 6 d. a Ticket. Put in your Money, and draw your ſelf, and take your Prize along with you. The Goods are, a ſmall Silver Watch, a Gold Ring, a Dozen of ſmall Silver Tea-Spoons, a Silver Dram-Cup, Umbrello's, Coffee-Mills, Men and Women's Gloves, Fans, Ribands, and Edgings; all Sorts of Dutch and Engliſh Toys, Turnery-Ware, Braſs, and Tin; as alſo a Baby's Coach and Six Horſes. A Twopenny Sale of Goods at the Place above named, all Prizes and no Blanks.

MRs. Ogle's Catalogue of Plate, and other valuable Goods, Twenty Pounds for Sixpence, the higheſt Prize being a Silver Tea-kettle, Lamp, and Tea-pot. Tickets will be delivered at Mr. Sedgwick's, Hair-Cutter, in the Strand, at Mr. Green's, a Hatter, in the Borough of Southwark, at Joe's Coffee-houſe in Harton-Garden, at Mrs. Carter's, a Butter-Woman, by Clement's-Inn in Clare-Market, and at Mrs. Ogle's againſt Mountague-houſe, for 6 d. each Ticket. To be drawn very ſpeedily.

MR. Stocton's Sale of Jewels, Plate, &c. being near full, Notice is hereby given, That Tickets are to be had, at 2 s. each, at the ſaid Mr. Stocton's at the Bell in Henrietta-ſtreet, Covent-Garden, at Mr. Amſon's, a Goldſmith, at the Ring near Salisbury-Court, Fleet-ſtreet, at Mrs. Fowke's, a Milliner, next Door to the Rummer Tavern at Charing-Croſs, and at Mr. Marriot's, a Shoemaker at the White Hart in the Poultry. There are but 12 Blanks to a Prize, 500 Prizes, and the higheſt Prize 100 l. Note, 'Tis to be drawn by Wheels and Pariſh Boys, and is the faireſt and moſt advantagious Propoſal of this Kind ever publiſhed.

THere is now made Publick, Pulvis Anti Ictericus, being a Powder, that by long Experience is found to be a never failing Remedy againſt the Yellow Jaundice, or ſuch Diſtempers as proceed from a vitiated Gall. Thoſe who for ſeveral Years have been faint, weak, and look'd like Giplies, have recovered both Health and Complexion, to the Wonder of all that knew them, by the Uſe of this excellent Medicine, which is as pleaſant in Taſte as effectual in Operation. The Cure is generally effected by one Paper (unleſs the Caſe be very extraordinary) containing Three Doſes. Pr. 2 s. 6 d. without farther Charge or Trouble: And to prevent Counterfeits, is only ſold by Mr. E. Curll, Bookſeller, at the Dial and Bible againſt St. Dunſtan's Church, Fleet-ſtreet.